Navy-Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI)

T he Navy-Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) is an information technology (IT) services contract to provide reliable, secure, and seamless information services to the shore-based components of the Navy and Marine Corps. NMCI infrastructure and services will not extend to afloat or deployed units. It is required to support new processes and enable new initiatives such as knowledge management, distance learning, and telemedicine to improve the quality of life for Department of the Navy employees and support personnel. NMCI will provide IT services using a seat management contract that delivers comprehensive information services through a common computing and communications environment. Upgrades, modernization, and technology refreshment will occur over the NMCI contract life cycle.

The architecture will support Navy and Marine Corps bases, camps, stations, and activities in the Continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for an estimated 411,000 seats. The NMCI is not intended, nor designed, to provide direct support to Navy units afloat or deployed, as they are supported by the Defense Information System Network. However, the NMCI will connect with and provide network access service to Navy ships docked in the NMCI-supported areas. It is currently anticipated that in order to meet the Service Level Agreements and provide service for the estimated user base, a total of 72 server farms, 6 Network Operations Centers, and 2 Help Desk Centers will be required.

The NMCI initiative differs from a traditional DoD acquisition program where a system is typically purchased and the government assumes configuration control and life cycle maintenance and management responsibility. The NMCI contract is for the procurement of IT services (not systems) based upon a commercial model of service level agreements. Under this model, the emphasis is placed on the verification, validation, and monitoring of the end-user services and not on the underlying infrastructure or systems.

Due to the large scale and complexity of the NMCI initiative, implementation will take several years to reach full operating capability.

TEST & EVALUATION ACTIVITY

The contractor, in conjunction with Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force (COMOPTEVFOR), conducted a Baseline System Assessment (BSA) in FY01 on the pre-NMCI IT configuration, including hardware, software, security, and current performance levels at four Naval aviation sites. This data collection consisted of three qualitative surveys and a series of quantitative measurements. The results of the BSA have been evaluated and will be referenced against the "to-be" system evaluated during Operational Evaluation (OPEVAL) to measure improvements provided by NMCI.

The Navy completed developmental testing on the initial IT network and local installations during the first two quarters of FY02. The developmental testing, known as Contractor Test and Evaluation (CT&E), consisted of three phases of test events conducted by an agent of the prime contractor. The CT&E testing evaluated the technical performance of the NMCI infrastructure at the component (phase 1), system (phase 2), and mission relation (phase 3) levels.

The Test and Evaluation Strategy Plan (TESP) for NMCI was updated and approved by DOT&E on
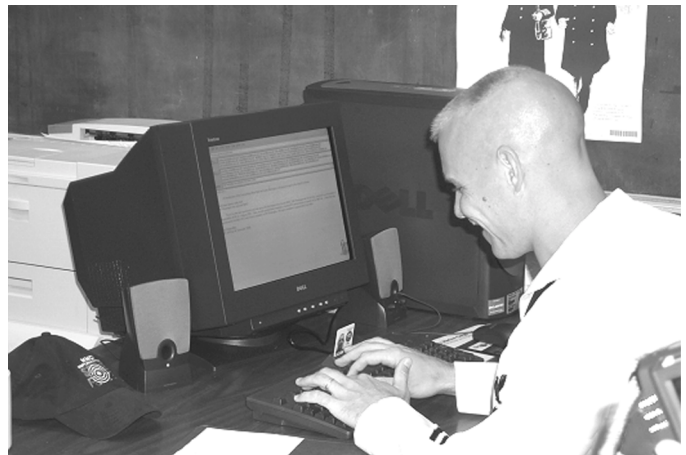
The Navy-Marine Corps Intranet will provide reliable, secure, and seamless information services to the shore-based Navy and Marine Corps.

September 4, 2002. Further, an Operational Assessment (OA) was planned to assess readiness for OPEVAL and to support further initial deployment. This OA was conducted for three weeks in September 2002 at five operational sites, including four NAVAIR units and Fleet Forces Command, under a DOT&E-approved test plan. The OA was monitored by DOT&E and the results are now being evaluated.

An OPEVAL is planned for 2QFY03 to assess the operational effectiveness and operational suitability of NMCI at five test sites: Naval Air Facility Washington, DC; Naval Air Systems Command Headquarters, Patuxent River, Maryland; Naval Air Station Lemoore, California; Naval Reserve Center Lemoore, California, and an aircraft carrier yet to be determined.

TEST & EVALUATION ASSESSMENT

A review of the CT&E results was carried out by an Independent Review Team, which found the results generally positive, but questioned the thoroughness of the test execution. For many issues, inadequate data was collected.

The results of the operational assessment are currently under review.